# **Managerial and Technical Qualifications**

#### Managerial & Technical Team

The members of Ascendtel's management and technical team bring varied and significant experience to the broadband market. This balanced team consists of veterans from both the telecommunications and data communications industries. Throughout Ascendtel's startup, the team has demonstrated success at growing new ideas and adapting to a changing financial and competitive environment.

# Kristina D. Harris President & Chief Executive Officer

Kris is the founder, Chief Executive Officer and President of Ascendtel, LLC and has eight years of experience in the areas of executive management, accounting and financial, computer networks (WAN & LAN), and security administration.

In August of 1995 Kris founded Internet Express, an Internet Service Provider (ISP) company, in Moline, Illinois. In the past five years the company has grown from 3 volunteer employees to 19 full-time employees. Kris now owns the remodeled 10,000 sq. ft. building where Internet Express is located. Recently Internet Express developed a state-of-the-art Server Co-Location facility in addition to providing premier Internet connection services to the Quad Cities, Geneseo, Dubuque and Galena areas.

Prior to forming Internet Express, Kris began a career in the accounting/financial arena with McGladrey & Pullen Accountants with positions in the Audit and Tax Accounting departments. During her last three years at McGladrey & Pullen Accountants, her skills with computers and networking were evident and she worked primarily with the internal networking department. Kris's strong dual backgrounds in accounting and computer networking provided the expertise to start and own Internet Express.

Kris's educational background includes a BS Degree in Accounting from Augustana College. Kris has completed course work through XOR on Advanced Unix networking and Cisco System Configurations. Courses have also been completed on OSPF & BGP Routing and High Performance Ethernet at the Learning Tree Education Center.

#### Managerial & Technical Team

## Roberta J. Brooke Vice President of Regulatory

Roberta Brooke's five years of experience in the ISP arena includes human resources, marketing, telephony negotiations, tariff and tax issues and reporting. She has served as Director of Human Resources, which required communication and meticulous filings with many state and federal agencies for payroll, insurance and all other business reporting. Roberta has also served in the capacity as the primary billing contact with ILECs. This role required her to develop an acute understanding of telephony billing, tariff and taxing issues and required many negotiations with the telephone companies over contract issues.

Roberta's educational background includes BA & MBA degrees in Management Sciences from St. Ambrose University.

## Michael D. Farrier Vice President of Operations and Sales

Mike has a varied background in telecommunications over the past 33 years. Seventeen years were spent with Northwestern Bell and AT&T in most of the technical areas. These areas included construction, installation and repair, switching, toll, engineering, and the business office as a technician and manager. Mike provided Sixteen years of service with Ameritech and SBC in sales and marketing holding several titles such as Major Account Manger with typical annual sales of \$8 Million. Mike has also has experience in Project Management of complex installations. During the last two years, Mike has been involved in sales & marketing, network operations, and WANS associated with Internet access.

Mike's educational background includes engineering at the University of Iowa and numerous courses related to telephony networking and equipment.

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## Nick Vermeer NOC Engineer

Nick is a key member of the network administration team. Nick has seven years of experience in the ISP arena that includes IP Networking, DS1, DS3, SONET installation & troubleshooting, Digital Access Cross Connect devices, and ATM switching. His broad base of skills also include network connectivity, Unix based systems, Cisco configurations, TOM and ATM Network infrastructure. He designs, maintains and implements networks for clients and for internal Internet backbone. Nick helps design client networks with a focus on security and availability.

Nick's educational background includes two years at Iowa State University in the College of Engineering - Computer/Electrical Engineering Dept. Nick has also been involved in coursework through XOR on Advanced Unix Networking and Cisco System Configuration Courses. Nick has also completed courses in OSPF & BGP Routing and High Performance Ethernet from the Learning Tree Education Center

## Matthew D. Reed WAN/LAN Specialist

Matt has twenty-four years of experience in the telecommunications and computer arena. His expertise is in diagnosing and repair of a myriad of radio, video, telephone and computer equipment as well as various PBX systems. He is familiar with a variety of computer operating systems including Unix, DOS/Windows and Windows NT. Matt is intimately familiar with the Internet and networking applications for both WAN and LAN systems including installing and troubleshooting DS-1, DS-3, and xDSL circuits.

Matt established Quality Communications in March 1997. Quality Communications existed as an Internet Service Provider in Iowa until it was acquired by Internet Express in April of 1999. Matt became the network administrator for Internet Express.

Matt's educational background includes vocational training on electronic servicing and electronics theory and diplomas from North American Phillips Technical Training Center, Zenith Radio Corp. Technical Training Center, Zenith Data Systems Technical Training Center, and Computer Repair Training Facility. Matt has also received formal instruction in Microsoft NT Exchange Server Administration from the Learning Tree Education Center. Matt is also a founding member of the Quad-Cities Computer Society.

### Managerial & Technical Team

Steve Langasek NOC Technician/WAN/LAN Specialist

Steve Langasek has worked in an ISP environment for over three years and is an experienced Unix programmer with an emphasis in computer security. Steve is currently involved in a number of Open Source software projects and is responsible for much of the day-to-day administration of web servers. Steve also has experience with maintenance and installation of T1 circuits and xDSL connections. He has worked closely with Ameritech and Qwest Corporation support staff to resolve telephony issues as they occur.

Steve's formal education consists of a BA Degree in Spanish, with minors in French and Portuguese from Iowa State University.